

Submitter: A WMLSLY

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Please support the transportation reinvestment bill if not for the sake of keeping all Oregonians safe on our highways with proper responses to road conditions and crashes but also for the sake of ODOT employee morale. Many ODOT employees have been doing more with less since 2009 and they are exhausted trying to keep up while also keeping a continued passion for serving the general public. Additionally, ODOT is on year #6 of not meeting FEDERAL AND STATE safety performance measures in keeping the public safe on our roads. In no world will keeping state funding levels the same and continuing forward with less staff stand any chance to improve these performance measure. No performance audit could possibly improve this either as one of the main reasons we are failing is not having enough specific safety & safety engineering staff to do the work that is needed to make improvements that ODOT has control over.

Other things to consider on the budgeting and auditing side of things - keep in mind that STATE transportation funding is very different than FEDERAL capital improvement project transportation funding. State transportation funding enables ODOT employees to keep doing their day to day operational jobs like DMV services, CCO services, clearing/maintaining roads on a daily basis and implementing crash safety programs/training. These budgets are managed very differently and by very different groups. If we want to discuss ways to improve the STATE budget, we should revisit performance measures set by legislature and talk seriously about prioritizing work tasks by the Agency performance measures in a data driven way.

STATE transportation funding also is the only source of funding utilized by employees to respond to any inquiries from the public, including elected officials. If ODOT is already understaffed and not providing timely or satisfactorily responses to the public, we should anticipate that responses will be minimized and satisfaction will decrease significantly.

Thank you for your time.